

On locative alternation verbs in Mandarin Chinese
[論漢語的方位詞轉換動詞]

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Abstract

This paper focuses on both single and compound locative alternation verbs in Mandarin Chinese. First, three particular properties of locative alternation verbs are introduced and compared cross-linguistically with examples from Japanese and English. Next, three properties are explored further and possible explanations are provided for the observed similarities and differences between the languages. Finally, the syntactic patterns of locative alternation verbs in Mandarin Chinese are investigated in the Sinica Corpus. The results show that the “oblique argument-verb-accusative argument” sentence pattern has the highest percentage of appearance. This finding echoes Lin’s (2008) claim that Chinese is not only a “topic prominent” language, but also a “locative prominent” language.

Keywords: locative alternation, motion, change of state, affectedness, locative subject

關鍵詞：方位詞轉換、移動、狀態改變、受影響、方位詞主詞

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